

IG Independence and Empowerment Act

Introduced by:
Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney,
Committee on Oversight and Reform

Inspectors General (IGs) play a crucial role in independently and objectively working to expose waste, fraud, and abuse in government. It is vital to have experienced, competent, and independent IGs at every agency who can effectively carry out their duties without fear of interference or retaliation.

The IG Independence and Empowerment Act is a comprehensive package to increase the independence of IGs, protect them from political retaliation, and provide them the tools needed to perform thorough investigations.

The IG Independence and Empowerment Act contains the following bills and provisions:

- Chairwoman Maloney's Inspector General Independence Act to allow an Inspector General to be removed only for a legitimate, documented cause;
- Rep. Lieu's Inspector General Protection Act to require Congress to be notified before an Inspector General is placed on non-duty status;
- Rep. Porter's provision to require that an acting IG be the deputy IG from the same office or a senior official from the IG community;
- Chairman Connolly's Integrity Committee Transparency Act to increase accountability and transparency for the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Integrity Committee;
- Vice Chair Gomez's IG Subpoena Authority Act to grant IGs the authority to subpoena witnesses who are not currently government employees for testimony;
- Rep. Ross's Inspector General Access Act to provide the Department of Justice (DOJ) IG the authority to initiate professional misconduct investigations of DOJ attorneys instead of deferring to DOJ's Office of Professional Responsibility; and
- Chairman Connolly's Enhanced Whistleblower Engagement Act that would expand whistleblower trainings to Office of Inspector General employees.

The IG Independence and Empowerment Act contains the following new provisions:

- Requiring notification to Congress of an IG's ongoing investigations when an IG is removed, transferred, or placed on non-duty status;
- Providing a single appropriation for the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency;
- Requiring IGs to notify Congress if agencies deny access to requested information; and
- Requiring CIGIE to establish trainings for IGs in their duties and responsibilities.

This legislation was introduced with Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Committee Vice Chair Jimmy Gomez, Government Operations Subcommittee Chairman Gerald E. Connolly, National Security Subcommittee Chairman Stephen F. Lynch, Committee Member Rep. Katie Porter, and Rep. Ted Lieu.